

The Scranton Tribune Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET. For School Director. Three Years—PETER NEULS, Eleventh ward.

The letter which we publish this morning from Rev. Thomas de Gruchy concerning John H. Fellows' recent bombast before the Pastors' union suggests that perhaps the pastor of the Jackson street Baptist church has not read to the belligerent and hay-tossing ex-mayor that passage in Holy Writ wherein Christ admonished him only who was without sin to cast the first stone.

Next Tuesday's Election. Next Tuesday being election day, it may not be amiss to remind the Republican electors of Scranton of the excellence of the present municipal ticket.

We have said and we now repeat that the office of school director is one of the most important in the list of offices in a republican form of government. The six men who shall be elected next week will, when installed in office, possess power more nearly absolute within the area of their jurisdiction than is possessed by any other governing board or executive agency within our knowledge.

We commend the Republican ticket less because we have desired to see partisan lines drawn in this particular election than because it is our judgment that the candidates named on it are preferable men. At the same time, the party issue having entered the situation, we shall be pleased to see the Republican voters stand by the party standard and thus in a small way get ready for the larger political engagements of the more distant but not remote future.

Senator Mason's Cuban resolution unquestionably voices the overwhelming sentiment of the American people, but we see no reason to suppose that their opinion counts.

Gross Contempt of Court. The publication in reference to the Martin trial to which Judge Woodward took such vigorous exception on Monday by Daverton in the New York Journal. At least this is the Journal's own belief and acknowledgment. That cartoon depicting Sheriff Martin as standing with smoking pistol in hand over the prostrate form of a crippled miner while back of him knelt the miner's wife and children, in tears. The intent of the cartoon was clearly vicious. Contrary to all principles of justice it presupposed on the sheriff's part malicious guilt, whereas the law holds every defendant innocent until guilt is regularly established by due process of law.

But even worse than the snap judgment which it sought to pass, is the gross impropriety of such a publication during the progress of the trial of the case. We believe there is no better established or wiser and fairer rule in journalism, among papers which have regard for decency, than that which withholds prejudicial comment of any kind concerning a case in process of adjudication in open court. While it is the duty of journalism in a case of public interest to print a fair record of the testimony and of the essential points in pleading and in the judicial charge to the jury, we are aware of no rule in law or morals which clothes a newspaper with authority to usurp the functions of judge and jury. Such usurpation, on the contrary, constitutes the most flagrant kind of contempt of court and cannot be reprobated too severely.

So far as The Tribune is concerned it has purposely refrained from having a special representative of its own at this trial, so as to avoid to its own appearance of any effort to color its reports. The Associated Press, which supplies us with the reports that we have been printing, is not only impartial but is represented in Wilkes-Barre by men who come to their work absolutely free of any preconceived opinions or sympathies. Their narrative of the court proceedings is photographic in accuracy. When the trial is ended we shall give expression to our views concerning it, but not before.

Because the Grand Rapids, Mich. Free Press had said that every idle man in that city could get work if he wanted to, 80 men applied to it for employment. True to its word, it offered to hire each one at \$1.50 a day, and 50 of the 80 forthwith flunked. Candidly showing as a rule proceeds

chiefly from those who don't want to work except with their vocal chords. If there is anything in the doctrine of probabilities, the next few weeks ought to see very material changes in the Cuban situation. That Spain is now simply playing for delay is clearly evident, but can the play win? Is President McKinley in a mood to be held up much longer? Will congress let it go at that? There have been many disappointments of just expectation in this matter in the past and the wear and tear of these on the average American's confidence is beginning to tell; yet we still venture to predict that the curtain will be rung down on Spain's tragic farce in Cuba ere the robins nest again.

A Public Menace. Expert testimony on a point of live and growing interest is supplied by Coroner Ashbridge of Philadelphia in an interview printed in the Bulletin of that city. The subject of the interview was the harmful effects resulting from the publication of sensational details in connection with reports of suicides and homicides. The coroner from his official experience cited these instances:

About two years ago a widow, 50 years of age, committed suicide by hanging. She fastened a rope to the knob of a door in her bedroom. Then she passed the other end over the top of the door and stood on a chair with one foot on the chair seat and the other on the door knob. After completing these arrangements she kicked the chair to one side. Her body hung so that when the door was opened it swung with it. The sensational details of the affair were given wide publicity in the newspapers, and in less than a week two women living in the immediate neighborhood took their lives in precisely the same manner. I investigated the cases thoroughly and found that the last two women had taken their lives without any cause. Inquiry showed that they had eagerly read every detail connected with the first suicide. One of them had even sent a servant out to purchase for her a copy of every paper containing an account of the first case. She had fairly saturated her mind with the sensational details before hanging herself. There was another case. A woman killed herself by swallowing a concoction of alum and laudanum. Her husband had been imprisoned for something, and she told her friends she couldn't stand the disgrace. This case was also given a great deal of publicity. Dark what followed. In less than six weeks there were five other persons in Philadelphia who ended their lives by drinking laudanum and alum.

The coroner gave other instances, but these amply suffice to illustrate his point. His deduction is that the details connected with some homicides, owing to their brutality and atrocity, had, best not be published. "Their publication," he asserts, "has a great influence on some natures. Newspapers go into our homes, and children get hold of them. The reading of horrible details is bound to leave an impression on their minds. The effect is not immediate. It may not manifest itself until by sickness or worry the person has been temporarily changed. Their bad impressions are apt to work evil."

There can be no question of the correctness of this opinion. The community has no more insidious menace than is embodied in the sensational newspaper. Crimes innumerable can be laid at its door.

The trial of M. Zola in France reminds us of an American election bribery investigation.

Last Year's Book Production. According to figures compiled by the Publishers' Weekly there were issued in 1897 by American publishers 428 books, a smaller number than had been issued in any previous year since 1888, when the number was 41 less. But though comparatively small the year's output is reported as of uncommonly good quality, entitling the year, in the Weekly's opinion, to distinctly creditable mention. One meritorious thing in the year's record was a decrease of nearly 50 per cent. in the number of English novels republished in this country. In 1896, 639 of these were republished; in 1897, however, only 352 were included on the American reading public, and it is to be hoped for the mental profit of all concerned that this gratifying reduction will go right on. Not more than 50 English novels in any year are worthy of reproduction; practically all above this limit represents so much waste of ink and paper.

The Publishers' Weekly divides the publications of the year into nineteen principal departments. In each of these, except theology and religion, juvenile, physical and mathematical science, and mental and moral philosophy, there was a falling off in the number of books published from the number published in 1896. The figures in fiction are most noteworthy. Novels from all sources printed or imported in 1897 were only 809 to 1,114 in 1896. On theological and religious subjects 469 books appeared in 1896 and 492 in 1897; 553 law books were published in 1896, against 509 in 1897; 682 books on literary history, as against 415; 293 books of poetry in 1896 and 247 in 1897; 299 books of memoirs and biography, as against 205; 177 on fine arts, as against 138, and 234 on political science, as against 196. Of the 4,928 different publications, 3,318 were produced by American authors and manufactured in the United States; 495 produced by foreigners, were manufactured here; and 1,115 were English works, imported here in sheets and bound. More than one-quarter of the English importations were of novels, most of which, as we have remarked, may well be spared.

Before passing on this subject a word should be said in recognition of the steady improvement which is taking place in the mechanical department of book-making. Books are cheaper than ever before, yet as regards paper, print and bindings they average decidedly better than ever before. The American portion of the trade is chiefly responsible for this improvement. It has practically set the pace for the trade of the world and it has only begun along these lines.

A severe attack of Klondike fever in Sioux City has resulted in a divorce suit. The plaintiff in the case is Mrs. L. A. Russell. In her complaint she states that about two months ago her husband resolved to go up to the Klondike in the spring, and immediately began a system of training to prepare himself for the hardships of the life of a gold digger. He would permit no fire in the house and slept with

the bed-room windows all open. He also confined himself and family to a diet of "salt horse," beans and lime juice. As Mrs. Russell had no idea of going to the Klondike, she objected to the training. She now asks \$10,000 alimony and the custody of her two children, and it is evident that she deserves both.

Judge Woodward is certainly to be commended for his action in excluding the yellow journal artists from the trial of Sheriff Martin and his deputies. It is bad enough for the citizens of Luzerne to be written up after the style of a wild western mining camp and without additional caricature by the nightmar artist.

It is said that Rev. Dr. John Hall's church, the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, will no longer be the fashionable church of New York city. From present indications the church is liable to become a place where people will assemble primarily to worship the Lord.

With true mercantile instinct, Brother Wanamaker apparently hesitates between the natural hankering after more advertising and the equally natural inclination to first compute the cost.

Among the great men who want Mr. Wanamaker to try again we fail to discover the name of Detective Thillard. And yet the first trip wasn't without its triumphs for him.

Speaker Reed denies that he has been won over to favor the annexation of Hawaii. We suppose Mr. Reed is great enough to be allowed one evidence of fallibility.

Dr. Nansen returns with a pocket full of money—and Dr. Nansen also thinks America one of the finest countries on earth.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Aiacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological Cast: 4:08 a. m., for Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1898.

A child born on this day will notice that the fellows who have been taking something to break up a cold will now use the same medicine to kill spring fever microbes.

Judging from the Times last evening Mr. Merrifield evidently has ambition to pose as "divine agent of calamity."

The flowers that bloom on Easter bonnets will soon be with us again.

Gardners are not much in the furniture line; but they understand "spring beds."

Aiacchus' Advice. Candidates for the "Don't Worry club" should keep out of local politics.

The True Mission of This Republic

FROM THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE. AMONG the opponents of an American policy in Hawaii there is no one more worthy of respect than Professor Edward von Holst. His earnest character and his high moral standards invest his utterances on any subject with a title to respectful consideration.

In the present case, moreover, he is at least free from the suspicion of selfish and ulterior motives which unavoidably falls upon some of those who are loudest in opposition to the annexation of Hawaii. He is not interested in the Sugar Trust, and there is no reason to suppose that he is working for the advantage of the commerce of any alien nation. The salient points in his recent argument against annexation, which is being widely exploited as a perfectly unanswerable and final word against the pending treaty, are therefore to be seriously considered.

From the military point of view, he thinks, annexation would be a bad thing for the United States, since the possession of the islands, entailing fortification and protection of the water, would be a source of weakness. But in the very next breath he says that the reason why Hawaii has not been grabbed by some other power is because of the annexation of the United States. Would its attitude of protection be any less a restraining force than now? If covetous powers have kept the hands off Hawaii in its independent state, simply because they feared the United States would resent their aggression upon it, it is supposed that they will rush to seize the islands when they are a part of this union and it is certain that any attack upon them will mean the whole power of the United States.

From the diplomatic point of view, also, Professor von Holst objects to annexation. It would entangle this nation with the politics of the rest of the world. If that were true, it would be a potent objection. But, with all respect to Professor von Holst, it is not true. On the contrary, annexation would free this country from such entanglements and from the danger of them. For fifty years the United States has had to engage in periodical disputes with various European powers to keep them from seizing Hawaii. On more than one occasion it has had almost to threaten war to make them relinquish the hold actually fastened upon the islands. It is near the danger of such complications increases as the extent of unappropriated land and the number of small and therefore spotty states decrease. The rivalry among land-grabbing powers consequently becomes more intense. The semi-protectorate over Samoa is an example in point. It has for years been involving this nation in disagreeable if not dangerous controversies with a European power. But once Hawaii is annexed outright to this country all such troubles and the danger of them will cease. There are no wrangles over our ownership of Louisiana. Possession of Florida involves us in no entanglements nor troubles.

The annexation of Hawaii means the temptation to still further annexations, says Professor von Holst; especially the annexation of Cuba, which, as he truly adds, has been under consideration much longer than the annexation of Hawaii. It is probable that Cuba will some day be annexed. There is no disguising that fact. It has been regarded as inevitable ever since the foundation of this Republic. But the United States does not mean to grab Cuba. On the contrary, it has at no little danger and expense to itself been preventing the grabbing of that island by various other powers. Its consistent contention has been that Cuba must continue to belong to Spain, or become an independent state, or else be annexed to the United States. That is the American attitude today. This country will never voluntarily interfere to take Cuba from Spain. If ever Spain wishes to transfer the island to the United States, the United States will consider the proposition. If ever the island wins its independence and then makes overtures for annexation, the United States will consider the proposition. That is all that is what the foremost statesmen of this union have had in mind for a hundred years. That is all the "terrible temptation" amounts to.

Professor von Holst devotes an eloquent peroration to "the glorious mission which Providence has intrusted to this

Republic." But either he misconceives that mission or the Republic has from first to last been going straight against it. As the earlier guides and protectors of the Republic saw it, that mission was to incorporate with the annexation of Louisiana a territory then vastly more remote from the seat of government, more difficult to protect and more likely to involve us in trouble than Hawaii is today. They deemed it not a violation of that mission to annex Florida and Oregon and Texas and New Mexico and California and Alaska. In these things was the Republic recreant to its mission? If so, it has by this time become so hardened a sinner that there is no use in trying to reform it. Uncle Sam is joined to his idols; let him alone. But there be those, and a vast majority of the most judicious and conscientious minds of the nation, who reckon otherwise. They believe that it is the mission of this Republic to develop its material and commercial resources and to protect its welfare, and to do so not only for the present moment, but for illimitable posterity. They will unify the American system and defend it against the encroachments of discord, disintegration, and, so far as possible, of entanglement with alien systems, so that the Republic, both now and centuries hence, may stand unshaken, unmenaced, self-contained and self-maintaining, with true fear and without reproach before all the world. And to that end they believe the annexation of Hawaii, at its voluntary request, will be an important and worthy step, insuring unending benefits to both the contracting parties and commanding the respect and approval of mankind.

WANTS THE THING CLOSED. From the New York Sun. For the satisfaction of the American people, and for the sake of the future that is before us, the annexation of Hawaii should be completed without much further delay. Close up this question of national importance, take possession of the property that is ours for the asking, record the noble deeds at once, in order that the country may attend to other matters.

It makes no difference whether annexation is consummated by treaty or by bill or joint resolution. The twentieth century will care as little about the method as it does about the fact of the national territory this priceless station in the Pacific as we care now about the exact details and legislative mechanism of the process which gave us California and Texas and Alaska. The Mugwump obstructionists of national destiny will all be dead or silent; and they will have no successors. If there are any of the twentieth century who will bless us unambiguously for having had wit enough not to allow a great opportunity to escape, not to allow a great treasure to pass forever into the hands of England or some other European power. They will thank heaven that we had the energy to strike when the iron was hot.

The treaty hangs in the senate. Whether there are sixty or sixty-two ratifiers or not is not the question. The ratification does not profess to know. There may be sixty-one. There may be only fifty-nine. If there are sixty-one or even sixty, the treaty through, if every tradition of the senate is crushed flat as a pancake in the jamming thereof. If there are only fifty-nine, no other in sight do not wait for the slow process of evolution to transform fools into wise men, or to transmit selfish and self-opinionated and shortsighted and possibly ignominiously influenced opponents of annexation into patriotic American senators with eyes that see quite to the horizon. Do not waste time in electorating for two-thirds majority, when a majority will suffice. Press the Morgan bill ahead of the treaty. Pass the Morgan bill and send it to the house.

The house will pass it, too; no fear about that! The president will sign it, and the Stars and Stripes will float over the lovely Hawaiian archipelago.

THE WRONG WAY. From the Philadelphia Press. The Virginia legislature has defeated one of the silly laws prohibiting flirting which are breaking out like a rash over the southern states. They are all relics of the antiquated view that the way to prevent frivolous misconduct between the sexes is to shut up women and levy penalties on the men. The Oriental harem is the Eastern development of this theory, and these laws prohibiting "flirting" which the heads of various female seminaries South have asked for and which some of our states have adopted, are a relic of the harem view of women. The sound sense of the American people is not to be deceived by the social conventions of any class or the sumptuary legislation of anxious educators, has discovered a more excellent way. The best cure for "flirting," the casual, foolish, aimless contact and acquaintance of young people, is not to prohibit it by law, but to prevent it by education and social freedom.

Nobody ever heard of "flirting" in any college where girls and boys are educated together. It grows like a noxious weed by every roadside where girls and boys are educated separately, unless—and this unless carries the law and the prophets on this matter—the girls have as strenuous and severe an education as the boys, and are taught the responsibility of sex instead of having their empty minds filled with its opportunities and privileges. Educate a young woman and throw her on her own responsibility and she will not be too busy to flirt and too wise to entangle herself with casual acquaintances.

Give a girl a superficial training, accustom her to think of "coming out" at 18 years of age or so, fill her mind with the prospect of masculine contact until she looks it as a disgrace not to have had a lover before she is out of her teens, leave her mind empty, teach her that she is watched, surround her with social conventions which suggest the perpetual possibility of evil and the inevitable result is that both she and the young man she is thrown with will need watching and require all the checks and balances social conventions provide. Sexual sense and manly are not to be got by locking up one sex and flinging the other out by giving both trained minds and busy hands.

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Good News from Our Drapery Department

Several small lots from 3 to 5 pairs of Lace Curtains, which cannot be duplicated, have been marked down to a price that will naturally find quick takers. They begin at 37 cents a pair and run up to \$1.98, many of them you find just half price. A few pairs of Derby and Chenille Curtains, commencing at \$1.98. All of them 25 per cent. off the regular price and must be seen to be appreciated.

A Sale of Embroideries

One hundred thousand yards of New Embroideries—Edgings, Insertions and Flounces, are shown here for your inspection and approval. Fresh from St. Gall and Herisau, bought direct from the dealers who have made those towns famous for such wares, shipped to us as straight as rail can run and ship can steer, and shown at the little figures that modern methods of buying and selling can compass.

Of course they're good goods. They're the kind which are made on hand machines, patiently and carefully. They're distinctly NOT the kind made by steam, in which the edges ravel freely after laundering. All the patterns, all the styles, all the kinds have been gone over with care, and the result is a collection of the best, prettiest, most desirable.

Prices run from 3 cents to 49 cents a yard, about one-half regular figures.

OFF WITH THE OLD



AS THE OLD YEAR IS CAST OFF like an old shoe, so should you resolve to carry out the simile by coming in and selecting a new pair of our elegant '98 shoes. Just received for those who want advance styles at backward prices.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies, WYOMING AVENUE.

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THEY'RE GOING FAST

Those Oil Heaters we told you about last week. But the fact of our having had a good sale of them WILL NOT change our resolution to clean them out.

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Is the only kind we have; you can buy it as low as you would have to pay for the ordinary.

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Means Genuine Reductions on all WINTER GOODS

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Sale Price, 59c 10 PIECES All Wool Cheviots, good value at 30 and 35c per yard.

Sale Price, 19c CASE Best Domestic Dress Gingham, every day value 8c.

Sale Price, 5c CASE Best Quality Seersucker, every day value 10c.

Sale Price, 7c ONE CASE Ladies' Seamless Hose, double sole and heel, extra value at 19c a pair

Sale Price, 12 1/2c ONE CASE Men's Natural Wool Shirts and Drawers, first class value for 75c.

Sale Price, 50c 10 PIECES Loom Dice Table Linen (all linen) best 25c quality.

Sale Price, 19c 10 PIECES German "Silver Bleach" Table Linen, best 50c quality.

Sale Price, 35c 15 PIECES extra heavy Cream "Damask," 75c quality, "extra wide."

Sale Price, 54c 25 DOZEN Hemmed Pillow Cases

Sale Price, 9c 200 DOZEN Cutters best quality Sewing Silk; good assortment of colors.

Sale Price, 55c doz 510 and 512 LACKAWANNA AVENUE

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